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Urban League  
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ANNUAL 1959

*Report  
To The  
Public*

URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY

TO THE READER:

This report which has been compiled by the staff of the League, presents a very brief and condensed summary of the major activities of the agency during the 1959 fiscal year.

A minimum of statistical information has been maintained throughout this document. We recognize that statistics are important but much of the activities and the achievements of the Urban League of Essex County cannot be properly reflected in a set of figures. It is for this reason that the operations of the agency during the period covered are expressed in terms of goals and achievements.

I also take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to each individual Urban League member for his support of the agency and to the many business concerns, private and public agencies, and affiliated and non-affiliated organizations for their active participation in the Urban League's program through the years.

I hope that we will continue to warrant, by our operations, such support and hope that we will continue to receive this support in the years ahead.

Sidney Reitman  
President

## AT YEAR'S END 1959: A CONDENSED REPORT

### I. COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Initiated, planned and carried out a community-wide conference on November 7 on social problems in Montclair, with special reference to inter-group implication. Project activities covered a 9-month period.

Initially surveyed the possibilities for a neighborhood conference in the Ironbound Section of Newark. Project activities covered a 3-month period.

Reactivated the Urban League's Adoption Project; won the support of all the adoption service agencies in the area and published a brochure on adoption and foster home care for use in the educational activities of the League.

Reestablished Urban League-Neighborhood Groups relationships and provided professional direction and guidance to six groups during the year.

Provided the Central Newark Community Council with staff assistance, professional guidance and meeting room facilities throughout the year.

Executive Director of the agency appointed by the Mayor to the Newark Commission for Neighborhood Conservation and Rehabilitation, and by the Governor to the State Committee of the 1960 White House Conference on Children and Youth.

Serviced 200 clients through referral activities who came to the agency with personal, health, marital, financial and/or other family problems.

Aided 30 families with emergency financial assistance made possible through the Newark News Christmas Fund.

During the Christmas season 84 families containing 351 children were provided with about 700 toys donated to the Urban League by the Bell Telephone Laboratories and St. Mary's Orphanage.

The major unmet need of the agency's operations during the year has been the inability, because of staff and financial limitations, of establishing a much to be desired urbanizing program primarily designed to meet the needs of a highly mobile population.

## I. INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

In the agency's job development activities for the year, 50 employers were paid personal visits . . . 400 job applicants were interviewed, screened and registered and 65 job placements were made.

The agency's activities were primarily responsible for a combined New Jersey Urban League Equal Opportunity Day Program which attracted better than 200 top businessmen and industrialists to the meeting at the Essex House

on December 3. This project covered a period of better than six months of activity and produced excellent potentials for future League support from those present.

Two significant pilot placements during the year were sales positions with Gordon Bass & Company and Galsworthy. The latter was extremely important because it set a precedent in regard to the refusal or reluctance of a union to accept membership of a job applicant agreeable to the employer but not the union.

Major unmet needs of the Industrial Relations activities are the current inability of the agency to provide an information service to employers; an information service to job applicants; and a sustained factfinding or research operation for industrial relations programming and activities.

### III. VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING

Seven Career Clubs under the National Urban League's Tomorrow's Scientists and Technicians program were conducted during the year. The seven clubs were located in facilities provided by Fuld Neighborhood House and the Leaguer's Headquarters. Also during the course of the year the agency provided individual counseling to 350 young persons and group counseling to approximately 1,000.

The unmet needs in this area of operations are educational and vocational information service for young people; sustained project activities; and a community-wide or county-wide forum for youth served by the agency.

#### IV. HOUSING ACTIVITIES

The Executive Director of the agency provided the initial services in the organization and operation of the New Jersey Committee Against Discrimination in Housing.

The agency, through its Executive, was primarily responsible for the organization and activities of the Newark Fair Housing Practices Committee which led to a series of conferences called by the Mayor on rent gouging and housing practices in the community adversely affecting minority group residents.

The Housing Committee of the agency, through the Executive Director, planned and held a meeting with the City Planning Officer at which time a thorough briefing on City Planning was given to the group.

The Executive Director of the agency served as a consultant to both private and public groups and agencies concerned with urban renewal projects in Montclair, Orange and East Orange.

#### V. FUND RAISING

During the year 1959, 3,200 initial mail contacts and 1,500 followup contacts were made by staff on behalf of Urban League memberships.

The 1959 membership campaign resulted in 684 members for a total of better than \$5,000 in dues and contributions.

Initial plans and an organizational structure for the 1960 membership campaign were initiated during the year. These plans called for 150 workers with each worker being responsible for at least 10 memberships. About \$7,000 in membership fees is anticipated.

During the year, initial steps at fund raising were taken by the Executive Director which resulted in a grant of \$1,000 from the Turrell Fund. Of this amount \$500 was granted as of December 21, 1959 and \$500 will be available as of July 15, 1960.

During the year, initial steps were taken by the Executive Director to obtain Council and Chest membership in the Community Chest of the Oranges and Maplewood. Formal application and discussion of the Urban League application is scheduled for a date early in 1960.

The Executive Director, also during the course of the year, explored a proposal for obtaining the assistance of the Clergy Club of Montclair in securing 500 memberships in Montclair amounting to at least \$1,500 through activities of the Clergy Club. Formal presentation of proposal to the Board of the League for approval will soon be made.

#### VI. PUBLIC RELATIONS, PUBLICITY AND PROMOTION

During the year 1959, the Executive Director of the agency, with the assistance of staff, reactivated the agency's Newsletter and published the first issue on a bi-monthly basis in November.

Publications prepared and produced by the agency during the year 1959 with the assistance of the Welfare Federation included . . . the 1959 Annual Report . . . Adoption Brochure . . . A Membership Folder "Let's Join The Human Race" . . . A brochure "Urban League Services to Industry" . . . A brochure "Voters Registration" . . . A brochure "The Montclair Community Conference" . . . other materials of lesser importance for board and staff use were also prepared.

The Executive Director and staff fulfilled a number of speaking engagements to clubs, civic groups, and other organizations, both public and private, through which good public relations for the agency have been established, strengthened or maintained.



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP  
(Please print)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my dues in the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to  
cover my membership as checked below for the year 1960.

- ☐ General Membership . . . \$2 to \$7 ' Checks should be  
' made payable to  
☐ Contributing Membership. . \$7 to \$25 ' Urban League of  
' Essex County  
☐ Sustaining Membership. . . \$25 or over'

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Contributor

Contributions are deductible for income tax purposes.

MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATIONS

\$2.00            A General Membership entitles such members to:  
(and up to    . Voting privileges in all public meetings.  
\$7.00)        . Eligibility for appointment to Board of  
                Directors.  
                . Eligibility for Urban League Committee  
                appointment.  
                . Regular recipient of the official newsletter.

\$7.00            A Contributing Membership entitles such members  
(and up to    to:  
\$25.00)        . All of the above privileges and in addition;  
                . Regular recipient of all special reports  
                prepared by the agency.

\$25.00           A Sustaining Membership entitles such members  
(and over)     to all of the privileges of a Contributing  
                Membership and in addition:  
                . Special reports and publications of the  
                National Urban League supplied through the  
                Urban League of Essex County.

☐ Persons paying \$3.00 or more in membership dues may also  
become members of the Urban League Guild. Please check  
the above box if you desire Guild membership.

## OFFICERS

SIDNEY REITMAN . . . . .	PRESIDENT
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WALTER F. OLIVER . . . . .	SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
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MRS. HENRY A DAVIDSON. . . . .	TRUSTEE
L. HAMILTON GARNER. . . . .	TRUSTEE
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## EXECUTIVE BOARD

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THOMAS C. LEHMAN	

## STAFF

JAMES A. PAWLEY . . . . .	EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
A. OLIVER WALKER . . . . .	COMMUNITY SERVICES SECRETARY
MRS. LEOLA GUILFORD . . . . .	ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY
MRS. CHARLIE MAE COX . . . . .	PLACEMENT CLERK
MRS. GENEVA R. DIXON . . . . .	CLERK-TYPIST

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Affiliated with the National Urban League  
Member of Welfare Federation of Newark  
A Red Feather Agency

URBAN LEAGUE OF ESSEX COUNTY  
A SOCIAL WORK AGENCY FOR INTER-RACIAL  
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